

## **Udall Amendment to the Energy Bill: A Simple amendment with a simple purpose.**

### **▪ Reduces Corporate Welfare**

We need to get our financial house in order. At a time of skyrocketing federal deficits, and an uncertain economic future, we should not be giving away \$30 million to the uranium industry.

We have too many priorities that are not being met because we cannot stop these types of giveaways.

Taxpayers for Common Sense supports this amendment, and has viewed this as an unfair corporate giveaway.

### **▪ Protects Native American Health and Drinking Water**

This subsidy promotes uranium mining near the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, which will endanger the source of drinking water of over 10,000 Navajos.

The Navajo Community and the Navajo Nation have suffered enough from the effects of uranium mining. During the period between the 1940's and the 1970's, Navajo men mined uranium in dirty mines with high levels of radon. As a result, many contracted lung cancer. The Navajo Nation has seen an epidemic of lung cancer caused by uranium mining. Hundreds of families have lost loved ones and breadwinners to the scourge of uranium mining.

Just yesterday, the Navajo Nation Council passed the Dine Natural Resources Protection Act of 2005, placing a ban on uranium mining and uranium processing on the Navajo reservation. This community is tired of having to fight the uranium industry when many of them still do not have clean water, adequate housing, quality education, and economic development.

### **▪ Protects the Environment**

This subsidy will promote a highly experimental procedure that is likely to contaminate groundwater.

The fact remains that the technology is unproven and environment restoration is inconclusive. Companies using in-situ leach mining have had great difficulty restoring contaminated groundwater to pre-mining, baseline conditions without regulatory intervention to relax restoration standards. Restoration has taken longer than expected and cost far more than originally estimated.

The uranium industry has a legacy of pollution and a terrible environmental health track record. "Minimal environmental" damage at the hands of the uranium mining industry has equaled devastating health problems for those living near mines.

## **Supporters of the Udall Amendment:**

- Taxpayers for Common Sense
- Navajo Nation
- Southwest Research and Information Center
- New Mexico Environmental Law Center
- Eastern Navajo Dine Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM)
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- US PIRG
- National Environmental Trust
- Friends of the Earth
- Public Citizen
- Sierra Club